The chase

JOHN NOST SARTORIUS

£ POA

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REF: 374880

Description

JOHN NOST SARTORIUSEnglish School1759–1828The chase Oil on canvas 44 x 67.7 cms 171/4 x 265/8 inches Overall framed size 54.6 x 77.3 cms211/2 x 303/8 ins John Nost (sometimes written as Nott) was the most prolific and best-known member of the large and talented Sartorius family of painters. He was the son of Francis Sartorius (1734-1804) and the grandson of John Sartorius (1700-c.1780). In order to be distinguished from his elders, he referred to himself in painting catalogues as ‘J. N. Sartorius junior.’ John Nott’s brother was the marine painter, Francis.The family was of German descent and originally came from Nuremburg and John Nost’s grandfather arrived in England from Bavaria in the early eighteenth century. He was born in Westminster, London, in 1759 and John Nost, like the rest of his family, remained in London during his career.John Nost concentrated most of his work on horses, both hunting and racing, but the occasional shooting scene and dog or cattle portraits are recorded and he exhibited a number of fruit still-lifes as well. The horse paintings range from portraiture to hunting and racing scenes. His style is more advanced than that of his father or grandfather yet he still retains an old-fashioned quality, even bordering on the naive at times. However, his depiction of his subjects is less naïve than that of the rest of his family and the horses tend to be rounder and softer. He was also superior to the rest of his family in his ability to paint the landscapes in which his subject matter is set and M H Grant in A Dictionary of British Landscape Painters says that “…in some early works this rises almost to the mastery of that of George Stubbs”. His compositions, especially among his hunting paintings, are excellent and quite engaging.The Sartorius family were London-based and this centrality, aided by their apparent keen marketing ability, put them in an ideal position to win contracts to paint the animals of the wealthy resulting in all of them being successful. Their output was considerable which is interesting when one considers that by the time John Nott was in the later stages of his career, his style was already beginning to look a rather out of step with evolving tastes, belonging more to the eighteenth century rather than the more naturalistic style which was becoming fashionable. This continual winning of commissions in the face of changing tastes must indicate his connections to the right people and a good sense of business acumen.John Nost exhibited seventy-eight works at the Royal Academy between 1781 and 1824, thirty-one at the Free Society between 1778 and 1783 and one at the Society of Artists in 1778. During these periods, these paintings were sent to the exhibitions from addresses in or near to Oxford St, St Martin’s Lane, Soho and Covent Garden even though he worked regularly at Newmarket (often for the Earl of Derby), Epsom for Lord Foley as well as staying on the estates of the aforementioned at Knowsley in Lancashire and Herefordshire respectively. Among other influential clients were the Prince of Wales, Charles James Fox - the Whig politician and statesman – ...

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